

TRIBUTE TO T. MASSEY BEDSOLE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 20, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of Mr. T. Massey Bedsole, a dear friend and active supporter of higher education in the state of Alabama who recently passed away at the age of 93.

A 1939 graduate of the University of Alabama and a 1941 graduate of the University of Alabama law school, "Mr. Massey" answered his nation's call as a Navy aviator in the Pacific Theater, serving with distinction during World War II. After the war, he was discharged with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

A native of Grove Hill, Alabama, Massey Bedsole, was the proverbial pillar of the community in Mobile, Alabama, as both a leading attorney and outstanding businessman.

In 1946, "Mr. Massey" moved to Mobile where he joined the law firm that would become Hand, Arendall, Bedsole, Greaves and Johnson.

"Mr. Massey" served as an attorney for 60 years, also finding time to lend his considerable talents as president of the Mobile County Bar Association, director of the First National Bank of Mobile and director of the Alabama Power Company.

While a much respected legal mind and successful business executive, perhaps "Mr. Massey" made his greatest mark as a booster of higher education in Mobile and across the state of Alabama, as well as for his support of local charitable efforts.

For nearly four decades, "Mr. Massey" was a trustee at the University of Mobile where he was named chairman emeritus and honorary life trustee. For ten years, he also served his beloved alma mater, the University of Alabama, as trustee and then trustee emeritus.

He was also chairman of the J.L. Bedsole Charitable Foundation for over 30 years.

On behalf of the people of South Alabama, I extend condolences to his wife of more than 64 years, Martha; their son, Travis, and daughter Curry; as well as grandchildren, Preston, Edward, Ashley and Daniel; and their entire family. You are all in our prayers.

ASSAULT ON CAMP ASHRAF

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 20, 2011

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on January 7th of this year, residents of Camp Ashraf were attacked by Iranian agents and supporting Iraqi forces. Camp Ashraf houses over 3,400 supporters of Iran's opposition and are currently under the "protected persons" status in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention.

176 people, including 91 women were injured when the agents hurled stones, bottles, metal pieces and Molotov cocktails into the Camp. This barrage builds on a broader campaign against the people that were exiled from their homeland after calling for an end to the oppressive Iranian regime.

For the past 11 months, 180 loudspeakers have been installed beyond the fences of the

Camp that continuously play Iranian propaganda and messages that threaten the property, homes and lives of residents. To me, this presents a compelling reminder that the freedoms we enjoy are far from universal and there are those struggling for the same liberties. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to speak out against the Iranian and Iraqi forces involved in the assault on Camp Ashraf and remember those injured in the violence.

HONORING JOAN THAYER

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 20, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Joan Thayer, who retired in January 2011 as the Assessor-Recorder of Marin County. Assessor Thayer's commitment to the highest quality of public service has benefited the people of Marin and strengthened the office she led for so many years.

Ms. Thayer began her life in public service over three decades ago in San Rafael, where she first served on the Dixie School Board from 1979 to 1983. She later ran for San Rafael City Council, becoming only the second Councilwoman in the city's history. In those roles, Ms. Thayer established a reputation as an intelligent public servant willing to take on difficult decisions and defend her views with a unique passion and integrity.

In 1994, Joan was elected to lead the office of County Assessor-Recorder, then one of only two such offices led by women in California's 58 counties. In the years that followed, she worked tirelessly to ensure that her office continued to serve the interests of Marin residents. She has been an advocate for the just and efficient property tax system our communities rely upon, and she has performed her duties with the utmost integrity and professionalism. Ms. Thayer was also a leader outside of Marin, serving as President of the California Assessors Association in 2003.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in thanking Joan Thayer for her service on behalf of Marin County, CA. Ms. Thayer has helped to build a successful and well-respected institution that embodies the strength of character she consistently brought to her work on behalf of the public.

HONORING EVIE DAVIS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 20, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, public service is a noble profession when done honestly and well. Those who work in government, serving the people, do so with pride of accomplishment in the knowledge that they are helping to make life easier for those they serve.

Evie Davis, the District Manager of the West Nyack Social Security office began her career with the Social Security Administration 40 years ago, in October of 1970, at the Northeastern Program Service.

She held a variety of positions of increasing responsibility, rising to District Manager of the

White Plains office in 1990. She served there for eleven years before moving across the Hudson River to her current position in Rockland County.

She has served on many committees and workshops in furtherance of helping the SSA better help its clients, including the workgroup on the Limited-English Speaking Population. She has also served on the Advisory Committee of the Offices for the Aging in both Westchester and Rockland Counties.

She has always prided herself on her service to the Social Security Administration and the people it serves, touching the lives of virtually all of America's families in one way or another. She derived great fulfillment from her role in managing and always strove to contribute to a satisfying work environment. For her dedication and her abilities she has received many awards, including the Associate Commissioner's Citation.

Evie and her husband Mark are about to celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary. They have two sons, Eric and Jarrod, and twin baby granddaughters.

I congratulate Evie Davis for her 40 years of public service in helping people. She has earned our thanks and praise for the good work she has done for so many years in making our lives and the lives of those around us better and more fulfilling.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT HODGSON

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 20, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Robert Morton Hodgson, a respected long-time South Alabama business and community leader who recently passed away at the age of 83.

Robert Hodgson was a 1945 graduate of Baldwin County High School and a 1950 graduate of the University of Alabama.

A veteran of the Navy and the Air Force Reserve, Mr. Hodgson returned from his military service to Bay Minette, Alabama to help run the family business, Standard Oil.

Mr. Hodgson soon took the helm of another family business, Standard Furniture Manufacturing Company, where he served as executive vice president and chairman of the board. He guided the company, which at one time had 1,500 employees, for a half century.

In addition to his distinguished service as a successful businessman, Mr. Hodgson was an active booster of community service organizations, including chairman of the board and founder of Bayside Academy, chairman of the Alabama Sheriff's Youth Ranches, and chairman of the board of the Community Foundation of South Alabama, to name a few.

In 1991, he was named Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year in Bay Minette, and in 2008 he was commended by the Alabama Legislature for extraordinary professional achievement and community service for Baldwin County, Alabama.

In 1997, Mr. Hodgson was honored by President Bill Clinton at a White House ceremony recognizing business executives from around the nation who were instrumental in developing hiring practices to transition welfare recipients to employment.